



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PSC SETS INTERVENTION DEADLINE IN CASE SEEKING THE SALE OF THE CASS COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY**

JEFFERSON CITY—Cass County Telephone Company, Limited Partnership (CassTel); LEC Long Distance, Inc. d/b/a CassTel Long Distance (CassTel LD); FairPoint Communications, Inc.; FairPoint Communications Missouri, Inc. d/b/a FairPoint Communications (FPC); and ST Long Distance, Inc. d/b/a FairPoint Communications Long Distance (FPCLD) have filed a joint application with the Public Service Commission seeking Commission approval of the transfer of telephone assets of the CassTel Companies to FairPoint.

Applications to intervene and participate in this case must be filed on or before **February 14, 2006**, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application should be sent to: W.R. England, III and Sondra B. Morgan, Brydon, Swearingen & England, P.C., 312 East Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0456; James M. Fischer and Larry Dority, Fischer & Dority, P.C., 101 Madison, Suite 400, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101; and the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency which represents the general public in matters before the Commission. Individual citizens wishing to comment should contact either the Office of the Public Counsel (P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 573-751-4857) or the Public Service Commission Staff (P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 1-800-392-4211).

According to the application, CassTel and CassTel LD propose to discontinue providing local and long distance telecommunications services in Missouri. FPC and FPCLD seek to continue providing telecommunications services to the areas currently served by CassTel and CassTel LD. The application states neither FPC nor FPCLD propose any immediate changes in the rates, terms and conditions that are currently provided to customers. If the application is approved, existing customers of CassTel and CassTel LD would be transferred to FPC and FPCLD, respectively.

CassTel currently provides basic local telecommunications service to approximately 7,900 access lines in Missouri. According to the application, FairPoint operates 28 local telephone companies in 17 states with approximately 291,072 access line equivalents (including voice access lines and digital subscriber lines) in service as of September 30, 2005.